193. Mr. N. D. Satáráwála, Extra-Assistant-Conservator, Working Plans' Party II, was on 2 months' privilege-leave from April 2, 1895.

GENERAL REMARKS.

194. *Kumri Cultivation in Kánara.*—In the month of May, there was a serious, and apparently preconcerted, outbreak of *kumri* on the Súpá-ghâts in the Northern Division of Kanara. Some inhabitants of Anmód, in the extreme north of the Máhál, began it by burning 20 acres of forest. The adjoining hamlets quickly followed suit, and in a very few days the evil became epidemic all along the ghâts as far south as Anshi, a distance of about 50 miles from Anmód as the crow flies. The efforts of the guards to prevent this illegal cultivation were vain in face of resistance and the odds opposed to them, and all they could do was to report each occurrence, as soon as discovered, to their superiors. On becoming aware of the seriousness of the outbreak, I dispatched as many guards and foresters as could be obtained from Belgaum, and elsewhere, to the assistance of the local officers, and proceeded to the more northern part of the affected area. There I took down the depositions of forty groups of offenders, and Mr. Murray, the Divisional Officer then in charge, did the same for the southern portion. All concerned admitted the offence, and declared that they had committed it because, *kumri* having been closed to them in Goa, they no longer have any means of subsistence. At the same time, they declared their unwillingness to cultivate, on any terms whatsoever, the numerous fallow rice-lands existing in their village areas. In the end, this being the first offence of the kind, the offenders were leniently treated, and let off with small fines, the crops, if any, resulting from the cultivation, being ordered to be destroyed. The total area burnt is estimated to be 385 acres. The work was carried out so hurriedly that only small timber could be burnt, but most of the larger trees were cut down. The pecuniary loss to Government is, however, slight, no very valuable species having been destroyed.

195. *Causes of delay in the submission of the Annual Reports.*—The date prescribed by Government for the submission of the Conservators' reports is October 31st (Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. 8102, dated 15th November, 1890.) This date was fixed when the forest-year ended on March 31. Now, however, the forest-year has been extended to June 30th, and Divisional Officers' reports are not received by me much before September (this year the first was received on August 14th; the last report was received on September 4). References regarding statements or omissions, have to be made to Divisional Officers, which cause considerable delay in the preparation of my summary.

196. *Approaching retirement of Mr. Davidson.*—Before this report is published, Mr Davidson, now Collector of Kanara, will have retired from the service to the great regret of all forest-officers serving in that district. His intimate acquaintance with the forest-affairs of his district in their relation to public needs, co-operation, and non-interference with purely departmental matters, are qualities which ensure the maintenance of the very cordial relations that have always existed between the Revenue-and Forest-Departments in this, the most important, forest-district of the Presidency.

197. *Services of Officers.*—I have much pleasure in acknowledging the good work done by Divisional Officers and officers of the lower controlling and executive staff, and clerical branch.

198. The executive establishment has a specially hard task to perform, as it is greatly undermanned and due allowance must, therefore, be made for this fact in forming an opinion of the work done by it.

199. The following officers have been specially commended by Divisional Officers for the good work they have done:—

Mr. Mitra, Extra Assistant-Conservator.
Mr. Robinson, do.
Mr. Rege, Ranger.
Mr. Máne, do.
Mr. Nádkarni, Surveyor, Working Plans.

200. The office establishment has also worked satisfactorily.

201. *Health of Establishment.*—I regret to have to report the death of Mr. J. M. Fernandez, Extra-Assistant-Conservator, as well as that of Mr. Ghosekhán, late Ranger in charge of the Halyál-Range. Mr. Fernandez was Divisional Officer, Ratnágiri, at the time of his death, and had served meritoriously for 32 years. Mr. Ghosekhán was also a deserving officer of long standing in the department. The deaths are also reported of 1 forester and 14 guards.

202. The conduct of the subordinate establishment was not altogether satisfactory. Twenty-two guards were dismissed, and 1 forester and 5 guards reduced.

J. L. L. MacGREGOR,
Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.

Conservator's Office, Southern Circle,
Belgaum, 1st November 1895.